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Presentation Abstract: Field-Testing an Invasive Plant Species Early Detection Protocol in the San Francisco Area Network of National Parks

The San Francisco Area Network of National Parks (SFAN) includes Point Reyes National Seashore, Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Pinnacles National Monument, and several smaller parks. A draft protocol for the early detection of invasive plant species will be field-tested at Golden Gate National Recreation Area in the summer of 2006. Park units were broken into management units: geographical subunits that allowed managers to identify and quantify baseline invasive plant information. Subunits were ranked by number and degree of current infestations, risks of further infestation, priority of resources present, and other characteristics based on inventory information available and management priorities. Invasive plant species were ranked based on ease and feasibility of control, and placed on lists for early detection throughout the park, or detection in currently uninfested areas. Surveys were targeted in high-risk or high-priority areas, and plant occurrences mapped according to the Weed Information Management System (WIMS) protocol. Negative data were collected for priority species, and presence/absence information gathered for lower-priority invasive species. Rankings and survey results can be used to inform restoration and removal activities.